

**TESTIMONY
JONATHAN AVERY
PRESIDENT
HAZARDVILLE WATER COMPANY
BEFORE THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
FEBRUARY 24, 2011**

Re: SB-1020, An Act Concerning Water Resources and Economic Development

Hazardville Water Company appreciates the opportunity to comment on SB-1020 and thanks the committee for raising a bill to ensure that the proposed regulations do a better job of balancing the regulations to meet the needs of the residents and businesses in our communities as well as the fish.

Although we believe that some progress has been made, such as eliminating groundwater withdrawals from the scope of the proposed regulations, we are concerned that the regulations continue to overstep the intent of the legislature in passing 05-142.

Certainly, the benefit of increased water flow for aquatic life needs to be carefully examined with the economic impact of releasing more water from reservoirs into rivers and streams, particularly where it may not be feasible or cost-effective to develop new sources of supply.

SB-1020 provides more certainty regarding DEP's proposed stream classification process by stipulating that rivers and streams downstream from existing public water supply diversions or areas of economic concerns are classified as Class 3 or 4. By clarifying this, the regulated community has a better sense of how to plan to make the required releases and how the releases will affect the amount of water available to meet public health, safety and economic development needs.

We also support the provisions that build in protections for a public water suppliers safe yield, which will ensure that we are not releasing water into the rivers to protect the fish to the detriment of people.

Thank you for considering our position in **support of SB-1020**